



# Peace Corps Romania

## Annual Report

2008

Presented to Partners, Friends and Supporters of

# Peace Corps Romania





## Table of Contents

Letter from Ken Goodson, Country Director	4
Overview of Peace Corps & Peace Corps Romania	5
English Education Project	6
Community and Economic Development Project	8
Institutional Development Project	10
Environmental Management and Education Project	12
Peace Corps Global Initiatives	14
Community Activities	15





## Letter from Country Director

2008 has been an extraordinary year for Peace Corps Romania. With a team of 146 Volunteers, the program supported Romanian development efforts in 39 counties, increased our presence in rural and underserved communities and strengthened our collaboration with Romanian partners from both governmental and non-governmental agencies. New and renewed Memoranda of Understanding were formalized with the National Environmental Protection Agency and the Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation.

At the invitation of the Romanian Prime Minister, Peace Corps Director Ronald A. Tschetter conducted a 6-day visit in June, meeting with Volunteers and Romanian partners. His visit marked the first of an agency director to Romania in 5 years, and one that permitted the Director to meet over 100 Volunteers serving across the country.

Additionally, 2008 provided confirmation regarding Peace Corps' future role in Romania. Although the agency has historically ceased operations when a country joined the European Union, Director Tschetter's visit and meetings with Volunteers, their partners and Romanian officials, confirmed a unique opportunity for Peace Corps Romania to continue contributing for several years to come.



Our future role is one that will come with a more narrowly defined programmatic focus on English education in underserved and rural communities. Peace Corps Romania will also increase our service to communities and schools which have not previously received Peace Corps support.

As such, 2009 will be both a critical and transitional year for our program. Our Volunteer numbers will decrease by 20% overall and we will welcome the final intakes of Volunteers in our Environment and Youth Development (formerly Institutional Development) sectors. Our Community Economic Development sector will receive no additional Volunteers. Subsequently, work in these three sectors will begin planning Peace Corps Romania's legacy in regards to the contributions over the years by Volunteers and their Romanian partners.

Although 2008 has provided many new and unique opportunities for our program, the hard work and dedication of Peace Corps Volunteers and our Bucharest based staff to contribute to improving the quality of life in the places we serve has remained a constant.

As Peace Corps Volunteers always work in collaboration with host agencies and Romanian counterparts and co-workers, this annual report demonstrates the cooperation of numerous organizations and individuals across Romania who have made it possible for over 1000 Peace Corps Volunteers to serve in Romania since January of 1992.

We are extremely grateful to our partners, host agencies and schools for requesting Volunteers and for their collaboration and partnership.

We look forward to working with you in 2009 to strengthen the contributions of Peace Corps Volunteers in Romania.

**Ken Goodson**  
Country Director



## Overview of Peace Corps

Peace Corps is an agency of the United States government created by President John F. Kennedy in 1961 to promote world peace, community development and cross-cultural friendship. Since its inception, more than 195,000 Volunteers have served in 139 countries.

Today the agency is working in 76 countries around the world with more than 7,800 Volunteers, the largest numbers of countries served, and Volunteers serving, in the past 30 years. Peace Corps' Volunteers around the world are committed to grass-roots development in order to complete the agency's three goals of:



- 1) helping people of interested countries in meeting their needs for trained men and women;
- 2) helping to promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served;
- 3) helping to promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

Volunteers around the world share their time and talents by serving for a two-year commitment as teachers, business advisors, information and technology consultants, health and HIV/AIDS educators and agriculture workers. In addition, these women and men – young and old, married and single, and from an array of ethnic backgrounds – are committed to learning from their hosts and integrating themselves into the culture of the country where they serve as well as participating in community designed development and service projects and activities. All Volunteers work in conjunction with a host agency partner and serve at the invitation of the host government.

## Overview of Peace Corps Romania

Since 1992, Peace Corps Romania has shared America's most precious resource - its people. Collaborating with local community members, Volunteers work in areas like education, youth outreach and community development, the environment, and information technology. PC Romania has created more than 1,000 successful partnerships between American Volunteers and partnering Romanian service providers. Volunteers receive extensive language training and provide two years of technical assistance to Romanian organizations, schools and local governments while sharing in the daily life of their communities.

In 1991 a country representative and an administrative officer from the Peace Corps arrived in Bucharest, and on January 22, 1992, a country agreement was signed and support efforts were focused to establish a Teaching English as a Foreign Language project. The Peace Corps began a health, social and nongovernmental organization development project and a community economic development project in 1993, and Peace Corps Romania's environmental management and education project began in 1998.



Peace Corps Romania focuses on high-priority needs and development objectives identified by Romanian organizations; we place qualified Americans for two years in Romanian organizations to help meet these needs. Sensitive to Romanian culture, Volunteers and staff work in close cooperation with their local counterparts to facilitate the exchange of ideas, skills, and expertise between the two parties, enhancing both the personal and professional development of all involved. By working with counterparts, Volunteers are able to develop lasting friendships with Romanians, and when these Volunteers return to the United States, they promote a better understanding of Romania and its people among Americans.

Over the past 18 years 1,013 Volunteers have served in Romania in English Education; Community and Economic Development; Institutional Development; and Environmental Education programs. Today Peace Corps Romania has 146 Volunteers working with schools, governmental offices and non-governmental organizations in 39 counties across Romania.





# English Education Project

English Education is the largest of Peace Corps Romania's programs with 62 Volunteers working in middle and high schools in communities throughout Romania. On average, each Volunteer directly teaches 160 students and develops lesson plans based on a communicative approach to learning that focuses on developing students' speaking abilities, expanding their vocabulary and increasing their confidence in using English. Volunteers collaborate with Romanian teachers of English to supplement the national curriculum and their teaching focuses on developing students' communication skills in English.

Volunteers also direct their classes toward helping students become independent thinkers and problem solvers. Throughout their service, Volunteers also develop community projects in their schools and/or communities. These vary widely, from drama, debate, Volunteer clubs or English clubs for students and adults, to environmental projects, sports activities, camps, school newspapers, and inter-school competitions. They also assist their schools with the development of teaching materials and teacher training activities.

On December 19, 2008, Peace Corps Romania renewed its agreement with the Romanian Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation to continue its partnership through 2012 with an emphasis on placing Volunteers in rural and underserved communities.



## Project Purpose

To assist Romania by developing the potential of its communities through increased quality and availability of English language instruction in schools. The English Education project assists Romania in improving its community members' opportunities for education and employment by increasing the quality and availability of English language instruction.

## Project Goals

**Goal 1:** Secondary and primary school students will develop skills in English language communication, critical thinking, problem solving and increase their cultural awareness as well.

**Goal 2:** Romanian teachers of English will improve their English language communication abilities and teaching skills.

**Goal 3:** Volunteers together with Romanian teachers of English will adapt and develop teaching resources for their schools.

**Goal 4:** Volunteers and Romanian teachers will assist their schools/communities with outreach projects addressing the needs of the local people.

English Education Project Beneficiaries in 2008				
Number of Individual Service Providers Assisted	Men	Women	Boys/Youth Under 25	Girls/Youth Under 25
Individuals	223	336	6,285	7,269
Service Providers	109	308		
Number of Organizations Assisted: 140		Number of Communities Assisted: 83		



## Stories from the Field

### Thomas Dieter, Scoala Dimitrie Gusti, Fundu Moldovei

In 2008, I worked with my school, Scoala Dimitrie Gusti in Fundu Moldovei, to establish an EcoClub. This project demanded the help of students, community leaders, Youth Service America, and a Disney Minnie Grant. Along with my fellow community members, I helped provide guidance to my students as they designed and implemented the project. Community leaders, such as the Mayor, were instrumental in providing logistical support and time, as well as affirming the work of our town's children. The grant funded the purchase of t-shirts, paper, markers, and a digital camera, giving students experience with equipment use and maintenance.

We kicked off the club with an environmental awareness campaign for the village and a river clean-up along the Moldova River. The project was designed by students at the middle school and included a presentation to the community involving student artwork, photography, and research projects (focusing on litter, pollution, global warming, and recycling). The EcoClub, student-led and designed, educated students and community members alike about the need to keep the village clean and provided students experience in project design and implementation. The turn out from the community and other school members was strong, instilling confidence in students and indicating that they are capable of making positive change in their community and country.



**"Peace Corps Volunteers are able to establish a strong rapport with their students, nurtured through respect, open dialogue and professionalism, and they are truly interested in the different parts of Romanian culture."**

Anca Pegulescu, English Inspector  
Romanian Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation

### Zachary Lis, Grup Scolar Independența, Sibiu

I feel privileged to be a Volunteer at an underdeveloped school in a wealthy city. I use the word privileged because while there are other schools in the city that are academically stronger, I feel I am in a position where I have access to a school and community that does not usually give attention to its image and role in the community.

When I first arrived at my school one year ago, my biggest struggle surprised me. I was met with a lack of enthusiasm by many of the teachers and students, and my school had already been labeled as hopeless by my surrounding community. There were many factors for this perception, and most were beyond my control. However, after learning the specific culture of my school for one year, I have now consciously tried to battle this false judgment.

To address my students' low self-esteem I have structured my curriculum as much around their own discovery of themselves as of the English language itself. I found using English as a means of expression could help alter their self-perception. Poetry, in particular, freed the self-consciousness of my students' limited English. I encouraged them to focus on what they wanted to say rather than how they had to say it. In a sense, I let the students merely use the English language as a medium to learn about themselves and each other. I hope this attention to their individuality has brought them a sense of self-respect, and if that is accomplished, learning the English language is the easy part.







# Community & Economic Development Project

The Community & Economic Development program supports Romanian organizations and individuals in their efforts to identify their potential, seize opportunities and mobilize resources for the long term economic benefit of their communities. In this way, Peace Corps brings its contribution to the common efforts of addressing strategic development issues such as human resources development, diversifying economic opportunities, supporting capacity building at different levels as well as joining efforts to improve the quality of life in rural areas.

Peace Corps provides an important piece of the community development process with its professional Volunteers. The program looks into partnerships where Volunteers transfer management, planning, and knowledge through consulting, teaching and training activities. Peace Corps plays an important role in increasing organizations' ability to access other available resources and support.

The types of work Community & Economic Development Volunteers undertook in 2008 included various activities such as increasing awareness on available economic resources, youth development and outreach, business education and training, vocational training, agribusiness programs and PR activities. Currently there are 20 Volunteers serving in Romania.



## Project Purpose

Romanian organizations and individuals will identify their potential, seize opportunities and mobilize resources for the long-term economic benefit of their communities.

## Project Goals

**Goal 1 — Capacity Building:** Individuals and organizations (local authorities, community groups, NGOs, business developers, development foundations, entrepreneurs, etc.) of Romanian communities will learn about values, principles and practices that will enable them to improve the local economic environment and support and build their own capacity for development.

**Goal 2 — Strengthen Leadership:** New cooperative frameworks will be created among community partners including the public (government), private (business) and civil society sectors.

**Goal 3 — Rural Development:** Members of rural communities will be introduced to values, principles and practices that will enable them to increase their economic and social dynamics and improve the quality of life in rural areas.

Community & Economic Development Project Beneficiaries in 2008				
Number of Individual Service Providers Assisted	Men	Women	Boys/Youth Under 25	Girls/Youth Under 25
Individuals	310	280	200	327
Service Providers	34	28		
Number of Organizations Assisted: 24		Number of Communities Assisted: 28		





## Stories from the Field

### Dan Tirrell, Jimbolia, Timis County

In November 2008, I worked with the Atelier de Urbanism in Timisoara and two other Peace Corps Volunteers, to run a week-long urban planning workshop entitled "The City Environment: Young Minds Draw the PUG". As the newly established long-range planning office of the Timisoara City Hall, the Atelier de Urbanism has the primary responsibility for producing Timisoara's new General Urban Plan (PUG).

The City Environment workshop brought together 30 university-level students of urban planning, architecture, landscape architecture, and similar disciplines from Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Germany, Turkey and several other European countries to discuss Timisoara's PUG, the planning process in general, and to make a sustainable development plan for a particularly challenging area of the city.

The workshop participants spent one week learning about urban development in Timisoara and translating their ideas into concrete plans, working through the night on multiple occasions. I had the opportunity to use my educational background to help organize and execute the workshop, with a particular focus on achieving a high-quality planning process and on environmental sustainability. At the end of the week, the workshop participants presented their conclusions to important decision-makers in Timisoara, and undertook several other steps to further publicize their results.

The City Environment workshop and the positive attention it received demonstrated that young people have an important role to play in the urban planning and development process in Romania. It also helped to promote volunteerism. The image of these university students coming together to discuss their community's needs and plot out realistic solutions was truly inspiring to me and my colleagues and we look forward to seeing how this new generation of Romanian leaders can build off the foundation provided by this workshop.

**"The image of young people freely giving their time and effort to improve the world they live in is a positive example for Romania and all of Europe."**

Sorin Ciurariu

Chief Architect and Director of Urban Planning for Timisoara City Hall

### Bryan Devaney, Onesti

I had the chance to facilitate the implementation of a job fair in Onesti in Bacau County. Onesti is a post-industrial town that was severely affected by the revolution in 1989. My primary assignment is the local unemployment office. After the revolution, the state-owned industries, including an oil refinery, rubber factory, chemical complex and energy plant, all decentralized and formed several independent private businesses. Many of these businesses struggled to be successful. The largest of them, the oil refinery, went from employing approximately 10,000 people to only 5,000 today.

Over the course of my service I saw how my agency did not have the funds to effectively host job fairs to advertise the wide variety of available jobs in the area. To confront this, I identified and collaborated with a local non-profit organization, The Rotary Club, which consisted of local business men and women who had significant business knowledge and experience.

With financial and logistical assistance from the Rotary Club, the local unemployment office held the first ever public job fair. The local public library hosted the job fair. Thirteen businesses advertised over 100 jobs and approximately 200 residents searched for available positions.

Overall, the fair was a great success. Local businesses were well-represented and the fair was well-attended by job seekers. One local press headline stated "Job Fair : A success!" The Rotary Club and unemployment office considered the fair quite valuable and I was proud of how we used this opportunity as a great teaching tool to help improve future job fairs and stimulate growth in the community.





# Institutional Development Project

The Institutional Development program was initiated in Romania in 1991. Since its beginning, the program has gone through many shifts in focus. Currently, the program helps develop the capacity of NGOs and governmental agencies to provide an increased quality of services for marginalized populations and to support the development of public and private sector partnerships to provide social services.

Volunteers work with organizations that focus on orphans, abused women and children, mentally and physically disabled populations, HIV/AIDS infected persons, the elderly, Roma and other minorities. The Volunteers in the Institutional Development program work closely with NGO and local government representatives to help build stronger, more effective social service organizations and programs.

In 2008 the 30 Institutional Development Volunteers serving in Romania supported the provision of direct services to beneficiaries, provided trainings on various topics and implemented activities that stimulated local volunteerism and the formation of national and local NGO networks. Many Volunteers also acted as catalysts in the development of local partnerships between the organizations they work with and agencies in other the government and business sectors.

## Project Purpose

Institutions assisted by Institutional Development Volunteers will increase their sustainability, the quality of their services and their capabilities for developing local networks and cross-sector partnerships.

## Project Goals

**Goal 1:** Local institutions will strengthen their organizational capabilities in conducting self-sustainable and effective health, social and youth development projects.

**Goal 2:** Assisted institutions will become more capable in becoming involved and benefiting from inter- and intra- sector joint projects that contribute to local development.



Institutional Development Project Beneficiaries in 2008				
Number of Individual Service Providers Assisted	Men	Women	Boys/Youth Under 25	Girls/Youth Under 25
Individuals	250	400	175	400
Service Providers	70	100		
Number of Organizations Assisted: 48		Number of Communities Assisted: 60		





## Stories from the Field

### Nils Bergeson, Asociatia Pro Democratia, Braila

I work with the Pro Democracy Association and local youth leaders from the County Youth Council to design and implement a project known as the "Youth Vision of Democracy." This project consists of a network of youth who meet twice a month to receive supplemental non-formal education on issues such as democracy, human rights, and civic participation. More than 70 youths have participated in this project so far, which also includes a debate competition, a mediation workshop, leadership training, youth-designed volunteer projects, and training in fundraising opportunities.

This project began with youth from local high schools approaching the Pro Democracy Association looking for opportunities to learn more about the meaning of democracy and what it means for them. They also were interested in learning career skills, such as debate and mediation. This year-long project has helped to address these needs, as well as design a forum in which youth can help to recognize and identify more opportunities to serve in their community.



### Eileen Magan, Little Prince Day Center, Focsani

I work at the Little Prince Day Center for children with autism and I have worked with my colleagues to develop an in-home behavioral therapy program. For most of the children attending the center, their therapy was limited to morning kindergarten when they were at the center working with the staff. To have a stronger and long-term impact, the behavioral therapies must also be applied and practiced in the home, but this is a difficult feat for working parents. To remedy the situation, I have worked with the center's staff to implement a volunteer program where local members of the community are trained in the methods of behavioral therapy. Upon completion of their trainings, volunteers worked with children at the center in the afternoon, and then spoke with parents about how to implement this at home. Through this project, the volunteers are gaining experience that is applicable to their careers, as well as understanding more fully their fellow community members with autism. The children, the biggest beneficiaries, are benefiting from more structured and effective therapy.



### Joseph Martin, Ratiu Center for Democracy, Turda

During the summer of 2008 I worked along with my counterpart and colleague to initiate a community awareness campaign: Sclavia Moderna Exista! - Afla care este rolul tau in a preveni abuzul asupra drepturilor omului. (Modern-day slavery exists! Find out your role in preventing the abuse of human rights). The campaign consisted of three open community meetings spread throughout the summer. The meetings started off with high school volunteers performing a short play portraying the story of a young girl who is coerced and trafficked by an acquaintance. My counterpart Gratiela Anghelus then presented information on the realities of trafficking in Romania, and practical measures that can be taken to prevent the victimization of a community member.

The meetings not only sparked dialogue, but campaign surveys showed an increase in knowledge of trafficking prevention among attendees. I was encouraged by the interest and commitment of the volunteers and optimistic about the impact these youth can have on addressing a serious social problem facing Romania.





# Environmental Management & Education Project

Peace Corps' environmental program supports and assists local communities and organizations in raising environmental awareness and protecting and improving the environment. Volunteers work with host country nationals in local NGOs and governments to increase public participation in protecting fragile environmental areas, conserving natural resources, and expanding environmental education activities.

In 2008 Volunteers and counterparts collaborated to organize environmental education camps and clubs in 8 communities throughout Romania including the Danube Delta. These programs helped Romanian youth better appreciate the need for protecting the environment, while improving their knowledge and developing practical skills for implementing protection activities in their communities. Students and youth received training regarding a wide-range of topics including mountain diversity, renewable energy sources, pollution generated by waste and the benefits of recycling, composting, and biodiversity.



As Romania continues its transition as a newly admitted E.U. member state, Volunteers have also been working with rural communities to develop rural tourism programs that can bring additional revenue into the region. Volunteers provide training and support in the creation of rural tourism initiatives and work with villagers to identify ways to market natural resources in a respectful and sustainable manner.

Volunteers also work with Romanian colleagues to implement training and educational programs for staff in their organizations. Increasing organizational capacity through public relations training, community resource management, and fundraising enables these governmental and non-governmental agencies to better serve their constituencies, advocate for their issues and implement sustainable practices.

## Project Purpose

To assist and support the community development efforts in Romania by raising the level of awareness and education concerning environmental issues and improving environmental protection practices to make a positive impact on people's living standards.

## Project Goals

**Goal 1:** Community members in Romania will enhance their knowledge about environmental protection issues and be prepared to get involved in actions that address environmental problems in their communities.

**Goal 2:** Strengthen governmental and non-governmental organizations' capacities to promote and implement sound environmental management practices and in turn to foster the overall development of their communities.

Environmental Management & Education Project Beneficiaries in 2008				
Number of Individual Service Providers Assisted	Men	Women	Boys/Youth Under 25	Girls/Youth Under 25
Individuals	451	627	734	966
Service Providers	210	350		
Number of Organizations Assisted: 60		Number of Communities Assisted: 50		



## Stories from the Field

### Heather Ferguson, Asociatia Eco Sud-Vest, Drobeta Turnu-Severin

During my time with Asociatia Eco Sud-Vest Romania, I have participated in a variety of events, meetings, and environmental education initiatives from an international meeting trying to establish a tourist-oriented bicycle route along the Serbian and Romanian sides of the Danube to presenting information on renewable energy to school children in Romania and Bulgaria. As Romania moves towards a more environmentally accountable future, its residents find themselves with a hunger for knowledge and a penchant for change.

With my organization, I have participated in training with the Forestry Stewardship Council (which we hope to bring to Portile de Fier, a nearby natural park), requested and received textbooks on hydrology, ecology, and forestry as well as children's environmental educational books to supplement a small library in our office, and I translated a children's book about autumn leaves into Romanian so we could take it to local classrooms – complete with a collection of local autumn leaves.

As I find myself toward the end of my service, I also find myself approaching a large-scale project involving public awareness and community action through the medium of composting. As we involve the schools and surrounding community, I envision that my community will find itself with a new means to be environmentally responsible and convert these into a more constructive and environmentally-friendly mentality. We are well on our way – much of the project so far has been met with enthusiasm and promise.

Sometimes I wonder if these “small” things truly matter. However, I consider all of these “small” things as immensely important as each provides me an opportunity to interact with the community in some way and to work together to promote a message of respect for the environment.

### Eugen Petrescu, Counterpart, Romanian Ornithological Association, Tulcea

Jamieson is an excellent volunteer. This is evidenced through his understanding of - and enthusiasm for - monitoring biodiversity in the field, and for educational and awareness raising activities organized by SOR for children and youth in Tulcea. In the office he is serious and demonstrates perseverance in his work. His tenacity and knowledge have enabled him to secure a second grant for SOR Tulcea. The grant provided for the acquisition of a bird scope and accessories which will help raise the number of youth who can participate in our organization's activities in the field and in turn support the awareness of youth regarding threats to nature as well as aid in monitoring the region's bird life. He succeeded, in a relatively short period of time, to learn a great deal about the local birds and to become a very good observer of nature. Through his openness and serious commitment he was a good example for others and an individual who promoted cohesion within the team.

With his generosity he made his photographic talents available to help create a photo archive that captures the passages and wonderful biodiversity in Dobrogea and the work that SOR is doing to monitor the Delta and to raise public awareness. For all of these things we are grateful to him. Through optimism and positive thinking he helped instill in others a new attitude in confronting problems. He contributed to the strengthening of a team spirit and made connections with students and youth to help them understand the importance of environmental protection. He was also appreciated by the members of the other organizations whom he assisted.



**“With an open attitude, Micah encourages an environment of cooperation and tolerance. He encourages us to use our local human resources and to grow the capacities of our members and volunteers in order to help promote the protection and appreciation of the environment.”**

Marinela Verdes  
Counterpart, ASMEA  
Ocna Mures





## Peace Corps Global Initiatives

In addition to Peace Corps Romania's four program areas, Volunteers in all sectors often work on a variety of projects that cut across sectors and address locally-identified development priorities. These cross-cutting projects often fall into one of the Peace Corps' Global Initiatives and benefit from the resources developed and experiences accrued in Peace Corps countries across the globe. Peace Corps Romania Volunteers focus on four Global Initiatives: HIV/AIDS, Gender and Development, Youth Development and Information Technology.

### HIV/AIDS

In 2008, 16 Volunteers were directly involved in collaborative activities with Romanian NGOs, schools, and governmental offices to address the issue of HIV/AIDS. Volunteers are uniquely suited to work in HIV/AIDS care, prevention and education because they live and work in local communities and can present information in ways tailored to the needs of stakeholders. The content of these activities concentrated on prevention, care of people living with AIDS and their families, training of service providers, fighting stigmatization, general HIV/AIDS educational sessions targeting a wide array of audiences, and the development of resources in Romanian and Hungarian that address country specific needs and concerns. Through these activities, 11 organizations and over 1,010 individuals became more knowledgeable and more involved in the fight against HIV and AIDS in Romania.



### Gender & Development

The Gender and Development Initiative supports activities that examine and address gender issues in Romania. Peace Corps Romania has a Gender and Development Committee comprised of Romanian and American men and women who meet three times per year to discuss gender issues, identify points of intervention and design gender-focused projects for replication in Romanian communities. The Gender and Development Committee also serves as a springboard for networking between gender-focused organizations and publishes "Beyond Gender," a newsletter that highlights various gender issues. Volunteers also help initiate other cross-sector projects including Girls Leading Our World and Teaching Our Boys to Excel camps, prenatal classes, a domestic violence awareness campaign, and a Girls for the Future club for middle school-aged Roma girls. In 2008, the Gender and Development Committee hosted a seminar on how local police departments can train staff to identify and respond to domestic violence and provided training at multiple Peace Corps training events for Volunteers and their counterparts.







## Youth Development

Peace Corps Volunteers from all sectors collaborate with their Romanian counterparts in schools and non-governmental organizations to implement volunteering programs that focus on locally-identified needs including environmental and social issues. Volunteers help provide infrastructure and training in initiating and conducting sustainable service-learning clubs that instill a spirit of initiative and public service. Working alongside their colleagues, Volunteers also help initiate mentoring programs for at-risk youth as well as youth-expression programs like talent shows for high school students. Often these clubs integrate a theme with the opportunity for students to practice and learn English. For example, in 2008, Volunteers worked with community organizations in Galati and Braila to deliver youth development and training activities to enhance Romanian youth knowledge about volunteerism, teamwork and leadership. An English Education Volunteer also developed a "Halloween Leadership Project" which increased the capacity of Romanian teachers and students to conduct a school-wide activity involving leadership, committee management, project creation and execution, and fundraising skills.

## Information Technology

Peace Corps Volunteers also work with men and women in communities throughout the world to help them gain access to information technology skills and resources that promote social and economic development. In 2008 Volunteers used technology to help train counterparts and students in internet-use for research and educational purposes. Volunteers also helped create multimedia labs to help integrate technology into the teaching curriculum.



## Community Activities

Beyond their primary work assignments and Peace Corps' Global Initiatives, Volunteers are expected to work along with their fellow community members on projects that address locally-identified needs. These activities can take a variety of forms and often extend beyond the scope of the Volunteer's primary skill area. Community Activities initiated by Volunteers in 2008 include:

- Computer and work skills training for Roma populations
- "A Day in the Park" Public Community Activity Day for hospice patients and their families
- Documentary and filmmaking courses
- Animal Sterilization and Adoption Programs
- American Cultural Exchange Nights including book clubs and movie nights
- Health and Sanitation Seminars
- Leadership and Community Involvement Workshops for Roma communities
- Democracy Initiatives and Training Courses
- Organization of volunteer programs for traditional Romanian farming activities
- Youth athletic programs including baseball, football, basketball and soccer
- Creative writing, journalism and public speaking programs

**"For the past 18 years Peace Corps Volunteers have worked hand in hand with Romanian host agencies, communities and citizens to improve the quality of life in Romania, as well as to increase understanding of our two countries and cultures. Peace Corps is a unique form of foreign assistance, and a unique and valued part of the United States mission in Romania."**

U.S. Ambassador to Romania,  
Nicholas Taubman, May 5, 2008



The men and women who join the Peace Corps reflect the rich diversity of America in race, ethnic background, age, and religion. They possess varying technical capabilities. They come from all geographical regions, all personal backgrounds, all walks of life. Each brings a unique perspective.

Volunteers work in the following areas: education, youth outreach, and community development; business development; agriculture and environment; health and HIV/AIDS; and information technology. Within these areas, the specific duties and responsibilities of each Volunteer can vary widely.

If you represent a Romanian school, NGO, or institution interested in applying for a Peace Corps Volunteer, please contact our office in Bucharest. For additional information about our programs, please visit our website.

Peace Corps Romania

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**“The HIV/AIDS training of trainer sessions I attended that were taught by a Peace Corps Volunteer opened up my eyes to skills I did not know I had. After the sessions, I realized I love being a trainer and I am good at it.”**

**Adelina Gavrila**

**“Our Volunteer is no longer just an American, he is a Romanian!”**

**Ioan Ilies, Village Resident  
Maramures County**



**“The new ideas and perspectives brought to us by the 2 Volunteers we worked with helped our organization grow and develop new youth volunteerism programs. This would not have happened without their dedication and ability to pass this information and knowledge onto us, adapting it continuously to the local background.”**

**Alina Garleanu, Red Cross, Vrancea County**